

- (i) Public health, sanitation, unemployment relief, etc.,
- (ii) Arrangements for the removal of filth, nightsoil, etc., from public places without their being allowed to accumulate.
- (iii) Conservancy. It must be made obligatory on the part of every house-owner in a town to construct latrines on a design furnished by the municipality.
- (iv) Organisation of public lectures on the prevention of epidemics.
- (v) Primary education.
- (vi) Proper maintenance of lanes, public wells, tanks, etc.
- (vii) Prevention of nuisance arising from cattle, sheep, dogs, fowls, etc.

The optional functions should be—

- (i) Street lighting.
- (ii) Reading rooms and night schools.
- (iii) Maintenance of public roads within the municipal limits.
- (iv) Higher grade schools and colleges, medical institutions, etc.

The status of the members of municipal councils should be raised by demanding higher qualification and giving them wider powers. The franchise should be extended so as to enable every adult male and female to vote at the elections.

Municipalities should be consulted in the matter of location of liquor, *ganja* and opium shops within municipal limits. There should be annual municipal conferences and a municipal journal for organising municipalities to greater and higher efforts in discharging their functions. All public places within municipal areas should be open to all classes of people. The Government should render the necessary financial assistance to the municipalities for the realisation of these objects. Municipal administration should be placed under a Secretary in the Huzur Office. He should also be nominated a member of the Legislative Council. A committee with a non-official majority for the drafting of a Bill to amend the Municipal Regulation and for conducting a municipal survey in the State should be appointed.

**DEWAN'S REPLY:** Mr. Narayanan Pandalay, what you have said in a very interesting speech to-day in respect of municipalities covers practically the whole fabric of local self-government in the country. The points in it are so many and so important that I am sure you will not expect me to make a definite pronouncement on every one of them. All I can say is that you have given such obviously earnest and close thought to the whole subject that the Government feel that what you have said should receive their special attention.

#### 163. Inspector of Municipalities.

**MR. NAINAN EIPE** (*Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam*) said that municipalities in the State were acting in excess of the powers vested in them by the Regulation. There was no uniformity in the bye-laws framed by the municipalities for their guidance. They were levying tolls and taxes without proper authority. As instances of the annoyance caused by the municipalities, the Member mentioned the case of a municipality having fixed a low price for the sale of meat, of the Kottayam Municipality having established three tolls in the Minachil river, and of the Alleppey Municipality's proposal to lease the Sri Mulam Market for a period of twelve years. To regulate the affairs of the municipalities, and give them the necessary advice, an officer of Government should be appointed. If the appointment of a separate officer was deemed not feasible, the Sanitary Commissioner might be made Inspector of Municipalities *ex officio*. A Bill to amend the Municipal Regulation should also be introduced in the Legislative Council.

**DEWAN'S REPLY:** Mr. Nainan Eipe, I have a very open mind on the subject of appointment of an officer who will co-ordinate the activities of the municipalities, as it were, guide their decisions, and also be a transmitter of acquired experience between municipality and municipality. This is a matter which is well worth looking into, and as I said, I am prepared to take it up and consider it with an open mind.